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posed no limitation regarding the field of science in which an award may be made. Since, however, this fund, in its original inception was organized during Professor Henry's life time for the purpose of enabling him the better to carry on his scientific work, and since it now stands, in some measure, as a monument to his name and to his contributions to science, it would seem not improper that among projects of equal merit otherwise, some preference should be shown to those which may lie nearer to the fields of work with which Professor Henry's name is usually associated. The committee does not, however, desire to impose in advance any specific limitations or restrictions, and it will therefore be prepared to consider applications from all fields of natural science.

It is probable that a certain amount of money may be available for award at the meeting in April next. Applications for award should be forwarded to the Secretary of the National Academy of Sciences, Smithsonian Institution, Washington, D. C., on or before April 5, 1922.

Suggestions regarding the general problem of the most effective utilization of such a fund will be gratefully received by the chairman of the committee.

W. F. DURAND,  
*Chairman, Joseph Henry  
Fund Committee*

STANFORD UNIVERSITY,  
CALIFORNIA

DR. NICHOLS AND THE PRESIDENCY OF THE  
MASSACHUSETTS INSTITUTE OF  
TECHNOLOGY

DR. ERNEST FOX NICHOLS, president of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, has resigned his office because of ill health and his resignation has been accepted by the executive committee of the corporation. He has been given leave of absence until January 4, 1922, when the next meeting of the corporation will be held and the action of the executive committee will be ratified. Dr. Nichols was inaugurated president of the institute on June 8, 1921, but has not assumed the office.

Dr. Nichols's letter to the corporation follows:

A sufficient time has now elapsed since the onset

of a severe illness, which followed immediately upon my inauguration, to enable my physicians to estimate consequences. They assure me certain physical limitations, some of them probably permanent, have resulted. These, they agree, make it decidedly inadvisable for the institute or for me that I should attempt to discharge the manifold duties of president. Indeed, they hold it would be especially unwise for me to assume the grave responsibilities, to attempt to withstand the inevitable stresses and strains of office, or to take on that share in the open discussion of matters of public interest and concern inseparable from the broader activities of educational leadership.

As my recuperation is still in progress I have contended earnestly with my doctors for a lighter judgment. I feel more than willing to take a personal risk, but they know better than I, and they stand firm in their conclusions.

The success of the institute is of such profound importance to our national welfare, to the advancement of science and the useful arts, that no insufficient or inadequate leadership is sufferable. Personal hopes and wishes must stand aside.

It is therefore with deep personal regret but with the conviction that it is best for all concerned, that I tender you my resignation of the presidency of the institute and urge you to accept it without hesitation.

To you who have shown me such staunch and generous friendship it is pleasant to add that in the judgment of my physicians the physical disqualifications for the exigencies of educational administration are such as need not restrict my activities in the simpler untroubled, methodical life of scientific investigation to which I was bred. It is to the research laboratory, therefore, that I ask your leave to return.

In reply Frederick P. Fish, chairman of the executive committee of the corporation, wrote as follows:

Your letter of November 3, 1921, to the Corporation of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology was submitted to the executive committee of the institute at a meeting of the committee on November 10, 1921.

The situation set out in your letter is clearly controlling and the committee had no alternative except to accept your resignation, subject to confirmation by the corporation. As appears by the vote of the committee, copy of which I enclose, your resignation is to take effect January 4, 1922, with leave of absence until that date.

I can not adequately express the deep regret of the committee that the institute must lose your services as its president. We have all been looking forward with the utmost confidence to the sound development and continued prosperity of the institution under your leadership. We have no doubts as to the future but shall never cease to deplore that you were not permitted to make the great contribution to the work which your character, personality and training would have assured to it.

I need not add that the severance of the personal relations which have given us so much satisfaction is a source of keen regret to us all. We know, however, that you will always remain a friend of the institute and of those who are responsible for the guidance of its affairs.

The members of the committee and the friends of the institute generally, will cordially unite in wishing you a long, happy and prosperous life and large success in the work to which you propose to devote your effort.

#### MEETINGS OF NATIONAL SCIENTIFIC SOCIETIES

REDUCED railroad fares for those attending the Toronto meeting of the American Association for the Advancement of Science (December 27 to 31) have now been granted by the Southeastern, Western and Southwestern Passenger Associations, as well as by those named in a recent announcement (*SCIENCE*, 54: 353, October 14, 1921). Every member planning to attend the meeting from the regions of the Transcontinental Passenger Association should consult his local ticket agent, and purchase a ticket to the nearest main station lying within the region for which the reduced rates are available. The complete list of passenger associations granting the reduced rates is: The Canadian Passenger Association, The New England Passenger Association, The Central Passenger Association, The Southeastern Passenger Association, The Western Passenger Association, and the Southwestern Passenger Association. The rate from main stations within the regions of these associations will be a fare and one half for the round trip, on the certificate plan.

THE next meeting of the American Astronomical Society will be held on December

29-31, at Sproul Observatory, Swarthmore, Pa.

THE Ecological Society of America will hold its annual meeting at Toronto in affiliation with the American Association from December 27-30. In addition to the regular sessions of the society joint sessions will be held with the Entomological Society of America, the American Society of Zoologists and the Botanical Society of America. Members wishing to present papers should furnish the secretary with titles and brief abstracts as soon as possible. The society headquarters will be at the King Edward Hotel. Communications in regard to participation in the program and in regard to membership should be sent to the secretary, A. O. Weese, The Vivarian, Champaign, Illinois.

THE annual meeting of the Federation of American Societies for Experimental Biology, composed of the American Physiological Society, The American Society of Biological Chemists, The American Society for Pharmacology and Experimental Therapeutics, and The American Society for Experimental Pathology, will be held in New Haven under the auspices of Yale University on December 28, 29, and 30. The American Association of Anatomists will meet at the same date and place. The advantage of one and one half round trip fare on the certificate plan has already been granted by the railroads of the territory east of Chicago and St. Louis and south of the Canadian border. These rates are available to members and their friends attending the annual session. The federation meeting is under the executive chairmanship of Dr. J. J. R. MacLeod, of the University of Toronto, president of the American Physiological Society.

THE annual meeting of the Association of American Geographers, under the direction of President Ellen Churchill Semple, will be held in Washington, D. C., on December 29, 30 and 31, beginning on Thursday at one thirty. Through the courtesy of the National Geographic Society the session will be held at the society building. Morning sessions Friday and